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(12) United States Patent  
Bleck et al.

(12) **United States Patent**  
Bleck et al.  
(10) Patent No.: US 6,274,013 B1  
(45) Date of Patent: \*Aug 14, 2001

(54) ELECTRODE SEMICONDUCTOR  
WORKPIECE HOLDER

**(75) Inventors:** Martin Bleck; Kenneth C. Haugen;  
Larry R. Radloff; Harry Geyer, all of  
Kalispell, MT (US)

**(73) Assignee:** Semitool, Inc., Kalispell, MT (US)

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days. \* cited by examiner Primary Examiner—Kathryn George

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.  
Assistant Examiner—William J. Leader  
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Polit & Associates, LLC  
(57) ABSTRACT

A semiconductor switch having a gate electrode for use in memory.

(22) Filed: Apr. 27, 1999

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 08/680,057, filed on Jul. 15, 1996, now Pat. No. 5,980,706.

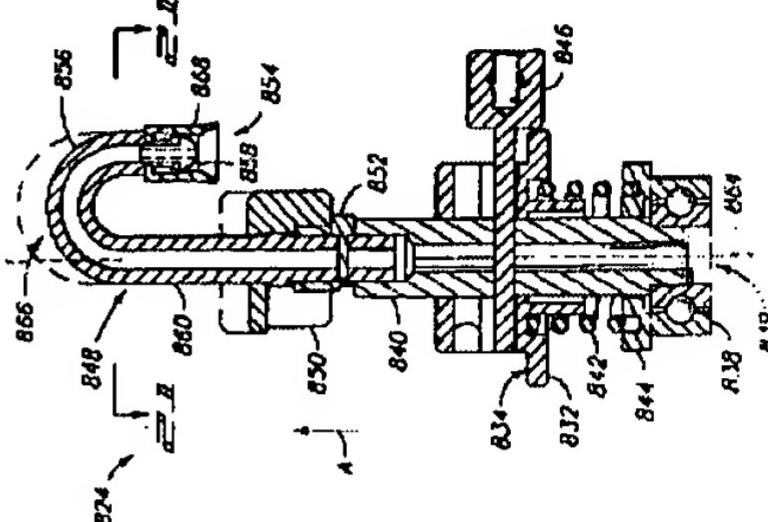
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TITLE: Planned maintenance methods

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6274013

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US 6,274,013 B1

**23** assembly from contact with a plating fluid, said at least one protective sheath being made from a dielectric material, said electrode contact being maintained in a generally retracted position within said at least one protective sheath when said at least one finger assembly is in said disengaged position, said electrode contact being moved out of said retracted position when said at least one finger assembly is moved into said engaged position.

in a reciprocal manner.

comprising:  
a workpiece support;  
at least one finger assembly mounted upon said workpiece support, said at least one finger assembly including at least one contact for contacting the workpiece;  
at least one finger actuator operable with said at least one finger assembly for moving said finger assembly between an engaged position wherein said finger assembly is in contact with the workpiece and a disengaged position wherein said finger assembly is disengaged from the workpiece, said at least one finger actuator having means for moving the at least one finger assembly in an axial movement toward and from the workpiece along a longitudinal axis, and means to rotate the at least one finger assembly in a rotational movement along said longitudinal axis;

at least one electrode forming a part of said at least one finger assembly, said at least one electrode having an electrode contact for contacting a surface of said work-piece to provide electrical connection therewith, wherein said electrode contact is one of said at least one contacts;

at least one protective sheath covering at least a portion of the at least one finger assembly to protect the finger assembly from contact with a plating fluid, said at least one protective sheath being made from a dielectric material, said at least one protective sheath including a yieldable terminal adjacent said electrode contact for

engaging said workpiece and effectively sealing said electrode contact therewith when said at least one finger assembly is moved to said engaged position said electrode contact being maintained in a generally retracted position within said at least one protective

sheath when said at least one finger assembly is in said disengaged position, said electrode contact being moved out of said retracted position when said finger assembly is moved into said engaged position.

4. An apparatus for use in providing electrical power to a substrate while a surface of the substrate is in contact with an electrolyte pursuant to forming one or more microelectronic components on the substrate, the apparatus comprising:

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348 | 349 | 350 | 351 | 352 | 353 | 354 | 355 | 356 | 357 | 358 | 359 | 360 | 361 | 362 | 363 | 364 | 365 | 366 | 367 | 368 | 369 | 370 | 371 | 372 | 373 | 374 | 375 | 376 | 377 | 378 | 379 | 380 | 381 | 382 | 383 | 384 | 385 | 386 | 387 | 388 | 389 | 390 | 391 | 392 | 393 | 394 | 395 | 396 | 397 | 398 | 399 | 400 | 401 | 402 | 403 | 404 | 405 | 406 | 407 | 408 | 409 | 410 | 411 | 412 | 413 | 414 | 415 | 416 | 417 | 418 | 419 | 420 | 421 | 422 | 423 | 424 | 425 | 426 | 427 | 428 | 429 | 430 | 431 | 432 | 433 | 434 | 435 | 436 | 437 | 438 | 439 | 440 | 441 | 442 | 443 | 444 | 445 | 446 | 447 | 448 | 449 | 450 | 451 | 452 | 453 | 454 | 455 | 456 | 457 | 458 | 459 | 460 | 461 | 462 | 463 | 464 | 465 | 466 | 467 | 468 | 469 | 470 | 471 | 472 | 473 | 474 | 475 | 476 | 477 | 478 | 479 | 480 | 481 | 482 | 483 | 484 | 485 | 486 | 487 | 488 | 489 | 490 | 491 | 492 | 493 | 494 | 495 | 496 | 497 | 498 | 499 | 500 | 501 | 502 | 503 | 504 | 505 | 506 | 507 | 508 | 509 | 510 | 511 | 512 | 513 | 514 | 515 | 516 | 517 | 518 | 519 | 520 | 521 | 522 | 523 | 524 | 525 | 526 | 527 | 528 | 529 | 530 | 531 | 532 | 533 | 534 | 535 | 536 | 537 | 538 | 539 | 540 | 541 | 542 | 543 | 544 | 545 | 546 | 547 | 548 | 549 | 550 | 551 | 552 | 553 | 554 | 555 | 556 | 557 | 558 | 559 | 560 | 561 | 562 | 563 | 564 | 565 | 566 | 567 | 568 | 569 | 570 | 571 | 572 | 573 | 574 | 575 | 576 | 577 | 578 | 579 | 580 | 581 | 582 | 583 | 584 | 585 | 586 | 587 | 588 | 589 | 590 | 591 | 592 | 593 | 594 | 595 | 596 | 597 | 598 | 599 | 600 | 601 | 602 | 603 | 604 | 605 | 606 | 607 | 608 | 609 | 610 | 611 | 612 | 613 | 614 | 615 | 616 | 617 | 618 | 619 | 620 | 621 | 622 | 623 | 624 | 625 | 626 | 627 | 628 | 629 | 630 | 631 | 632 | 633 | 634 | 635 | 636 | 637 | 638 | 639 | 640 | 641 | 642 | 643 | 644 | 645 | 646 | 647 | 648 | 649 | 650 | 651 | 652 | 653 | 654 | 655 | 656 | 657 | 658 | 659 | 660 | 661 | 662 | 663 | 664 | 665 | 666 | 667 | 668 | 669 | 670 | 671 | 672 | 673 | 674 | 675 | 676 | 677 | 678 | 679 | 680 | 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| 848 | 849 | 850 | 851 | 852 | 853 | 854 | 855 | 856 | 857 | 858 | 859 | 860 | 861 | 862 | 863 | 864 | 865 | 866 | 867 | 868 | 869 | 870 | 871 | 872 | 873 | 874 | 875 | 876 | 877 | 878 | 879 | 880 | 881 | 882 | 883 | 884 | 885 | 886 | 887 | 888 | 889 | 890 | 891 | 892 | 893 | 894 | 895 | 896 | 897 | 898 | 899 | 900 | 901 | 902 | 903 | 904 | 905 | 906 | 907 | 908 | 909 | 910 | 911 | 912 | 913 | 914 | 915 | 916 | 917 | 918 | 919 | 920 | 921 | 922 | 923 | 924 | 925 | 926 | 927 | 928 | 929 | 930 | 931 | 932 | 933 | 934 | 935 | 936 | 937 | 938 | 939 | 940 | 941 | 942 | 943 | 944 | 945 | 946 | 947 | 948 | 949 | 950 | 951 | 952 | 953 | 954 | 955 | 956 | 957 | 958 | 959 | 960 | 961 | 962 | 963 | 964 | 965 | 966 |
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Document ID	IDV	Based	I	S	U	V	T	C	P	Kind	Code	Source
1	US 6461494 B1	61	<input type="checkbox"/>	USPAT								
2	US 6309524 B1	45	<input type="checkbox"/>	USPAT								
3	US 6080291 A	21	<input type="checkbox"/>	USPAT								
4	US 5985126 A	60	<input type="checkbox"/>	USPAT								
5	US 5980706 A	33	<input type="checkbox"/>	USPAT								
6	US 0627401 A	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	USPAT								
23	3. The workpiece holder of claim 1, wherein said means to rotate the at least one finger assembly rotates the finger assembly about a pivot axis which is aligned with the axial movement produced by said means for moving the at least one finger assembly in an axial movement.											
24	4. The workpiece holder of claim 1 further comprising at least one protective sheath covering at least a portion of the contact with a plating fluid, said at least one protective sheath being made from a dielectric material.											
5,980,706	5. The workpiece holder of claim 4, wherein said one protective sheath includes a rim portion for engaging said workpiece and forming a seal therebetween.											
23	6. The workpiece holder of claim 4, wherein said electrode contact is maintained in a generally retracted position within said at least one protective sheath when said at least one finger assembly is in said disengaged position; said electrode contact being moved out of said retracted position when said at least one finger assembly is moved into said engaged position.											
24	7. The workpiece holder of claim 4, wherein said at least one protective sheath includes a yieldable terminal end adjacent said electrode contact for engaging said workpiece and effectively sealing said electrode contact therewith when said at least one finger assembly is moved to said engaged position; wherein said electrode contact is maintained in a generally retracted position within said at least one protective sheath when said at least one finger assembly is in said disengaged position; said electrode contact being moved out of said retracted position when said finger assembly is moved into said engaged position.											
5,980,706	8. The workpiece holder of claim 1, wherein said at least one finger assembly comprises: a finger assembly frame; a collet movably mounted on said finger assembly frame for longitudinal reciprocation into and out of said engaged position;											
23	a finger secured to said collet and movable therby, a portion of said finger extending generally away from said collet; and a bend in said finger between said collet and said contact.											
24	9. The workpiece holder of claim 1, wherein said movable workpiece support includes a rotor operatively mounted for rotation about a rotor axis; said rotor moving said workpiece about said rotor axis for processing.											
5,980,706	10. The workpiece holder of claim 1, wherein: 11. A workpiece holder for use in a plating process to hold and provide electrical contact with a workpiece, comprising: a movable workpiece support mounted for powered movement between a processing position wherein the workpiece support is placed in relationship with a processing bowl, and an open position wherein the workpiece support is removed from the processing bowl and available for loading and unloading a workpiece to and from the workpiece support;											
23	a workpiece support operator for powering movement of the movable workpiece support between said processing position and said open position;											
24	a rotor mounted for rotational movement upon the movable workpiece support to allow the workpiece support and a workpiece supported thereby to be rotated during processing.											





Document ID	Pages	1	2	3	4	5	6	S	C	TP	Kind Codes	Source
1 US 64 61494 B1	61	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	USPAT	
2 US 6309524 B1	45	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	USPAT	
3 US 6080291 A	21	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	USPAT	
4 US 5985126 A	30	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	USPAT	
5 US 5980706 A	33	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	USPAT	
6 US 0627401 A	3	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	USPAT	

US-PAT-NO:

5985126

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5985126 A

TITLE: Semiconductor plating system workpiece support having a workpiece engaging electrodes with distal contact part and dielectric cover

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US Patent No. - PN (1) :

5985126

- 41 upon the semiconductor workpiece during processing to communicate electrical current therethrough.
11. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 10 wherein said contact part is made from a corrosion resistant metal.
12. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 10 wherein said contact part is made from platinum.
13. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 10 and further comprising a dielectric layer formed about the distal end of the electrode shaft and forming a seal against side walls of the contact part to exclude plating liquid from a joint formed between the electrode shaft and the contact part.
14. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 10 and further comprising a dielectric layer formed from a dielectric plastic material about the distal end of the electrode shaft and forming a seal against side walls of the contact part to exclude plating liquid from a joint formed between the electrode shaft and the contact part.
15. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 10 and further comprising a dielectric layer formed from polyvinylidene fluoride about the distal end of the electrode shaft and forming a seal against side walls of the contact part to exclude plating liquid from a joint formed between the electrode shaft and the contact part.
16. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 10 and further comprising a dielectric layer coated about the distal end of the electrode shaft and forming a seal against side walls of the contact part to exclude plating liquid from a joint formed between the electrode shaft and the contact part.
17. A semiconductor workpiece holder for use in a semiconductor electroplating apparatus used to plate a metal or metals onto a semiconductor workpiece, comprising:
- a workpiece support mounted to support a semiconductor workpiece in position with at least a processed surface of the workpiece being in contact with a plating bath; at least one electrode finger which is electrically conductive and capable of receiving and conducting electrical current therethrough; said at least one electrode finger having an electrode shaft which extends toward a distal end;
18. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 17 wherein said contact part is made from a corrosion resistant metal.
19. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 17 wherein said contact part is made from platinum.
20. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 17 wherein said electrode shaft is made from a stainless steel or titanium.
21. A semiconductor workpiece holder according to claim 17 wherein:
- said contact part is made from platinum;
  - said electrode shaft is made from a stainless steel or titanium.
22. A semiconductor workpiece holder for use in a semiconductor electroplating apparatus used to plate a metal or metals onto a semiconductor workpiece, comprising:
- a workpiece support mounted to support a semiconductor workpiece in position with at least a processed surface of the workpiece being in contact with a plating bath;

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**United States Patent [19]** **[11] Patent Number:** **6,080,291**

**Woodruff et al.** **[45] Date of Patent:** **Jun. 27, 2000**

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US 6080291 A  
Apparatus for electrochemically processing a workpiece including an electrical contact assembly having a seal member

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extending from the upstanding portion that terminates at an upstanding edge adjacent and radially interior to said contact portion of said annular contact, the annular seal lip generally deforming about one or more flex points on the upstanding portion of the annular seal lip as the workpiece is driven into engagement with the upstanding edge of the seal lip and into electrical contact with the contact portion of the annular contact so that said seal lip is resiliently biased into continuous sealing engagement with the peripheral region of said workpiece, such sealing engagement inhibiting contact between the contact portion of the annular contact and a processing fluid used in the electrochemical processing of the workpiece.

15. A plating contact in accordance with claim 1, wherein a  
circular contact ring includes a conic guide surface for  
guiding said workpiece into centered relationship with  
said seal member.

16. A plating contact in accordance with claim 1, including  
means for releasably retaining said seal member on said  
annular contact ring.

17. A plating contact in accordance with claim 3, wherein

retaining means comprises at least one retention projection on one of said contact ring and said seal member, and at least one recess defined by the other of said contact ring and said seal member for releasably resiliently receiving said retention projection.

1. An electrical contact assembly for an apparatus for acting electrochemical processing of a workpiece, com-

an annular contact for mounting on said apparatus, said annular contact having an annular mounting portion, and an annular, electrically-conductive contact portion extending inwardly of said mounting portion and having a generally upwardly facing surface configured for electrically-conductive contact with a peripheral region of said associated workpiece at a substantial number of contact points; and

an annular seal member mounted on said annular contact, 40  
the annular seal member comprising an annular seal lip  
formed entirely from a resiliently deformable material  
selected from a group consisting of polymeric and  
elastomeric materials, the annular seal lip comprising  
an upstanding portion and a radially extending portion 45  
extending from the upstanding portion and terminating  
at an upstanding edge adjacent and radially interior to  
said contact portion of said annular contact,  
use of said annular contact and said annular seal member  
comprising at least one retention projection, and the 50  
other of said annular contact and said annular seal  
member defining a bore, said bore being formed by

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receiving said retention projection to thereby join the upstanding portion of the annular seal member to the mounting portion of the annular contact, the annular seal lip generally deforming about one or more flex points on the upstanding portion of the annular sealing lip as the workpiece is driven into engagement with the upstanding edge of the seal lip and into electrical contact with the contact portion of the annular contact so that the sealing lip is resistively biased into continuous sealing engagement with the peripheral region of said workpiece, such sealing engagement inhibiting contact between the contact portion of the annular contact and a processing fluid used in the electrochemical processing of the workpiece.

A plating contact in accordance with claim 5, wherein said contact portion of said contact ring is configured for continuous, uninterrupted electrically-conductive contact with the peripheral region of said workpiece.

A plating contact in accordance with claim 5, wherein said contact portion of said contact ring includes a plurality of discrete contact regions.

An electrical contact assembly for an apparatus for carrying electrochemical processing of a workpiece, com-

**Integral contact member having an electrically conductive mounting portion and an electrically conductive contact portion and electrical contacts with the contact portion having one or more contacts configured for electrically-conductive contact with a peripheral**

region of the workpiece at a substantial number of contact points; and

an integral seal member comprising a seal lip formed entirely from a resiliently deformable material, the seal lip comprising an upstanding portion in fixed alignment with the mounting portion of the annular contact and a radially extending portion extending from the upstanding portion that terminates at an upstanding edge adjacent and radially interior to the one or more contacts of the contact portion of the integral contact, the seal lip generally deforming about one or more flex points of the upstanding portion of the seal lip as the workpiece is driven into engagement with the upstanding edge of the seal lip and into electrical contact with the contacts of the integral contact so that the seal lip is resiliently biased into continuous sealing engagement with the peripheral region of the workpiece to thereby inhibit contact between a processing fluid used to electrochemically process the workpiece and the contacts of

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